

THEIR PLANNING AND EXECUTION. WE ARE NOT ABLE TO CONFIRM THAT SOVIET MILITARY PERSONNEL HAVE TAKEN A DIRECT COMBAT ROLE IN OPERATIONS AGAINST THE INSURGENTS. THAT MEANS ACTUALLY FIRING THE GUNS, RIDING THE TANKS, OR WHATEVER IT MAY BE.

WHILE WE CANNOT RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT SOVIET PILOTS MAY BE FLYING SOME COMBAT MISSIONS FOR THE AFGHAN AIR FORCE, WE ARE UNABLE TO CONFIRM NUMEROUS REPORTS TO THAT EFFECT.

WE BELIEVE THERE ARE NOW SOME 3,500 TO 4,000 SOVIET MILITARY PERSONNEL IN AFGHANISTAN. WE CONTINUE TO RECEIVE REPORTS OF LARGER NUMBERS.

WE CONTINUE TO INVESTIGATE THEM, BUT WE WILL HAVE TO STRESS THAT OUR INFORMATION IS FRAGMENTARY AT BEST AND IT

SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS AN INFORMED ESTIMATE.

IN ADDITION, THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 1,500 SOVIET CIVILIAN ADVISORS IN AFGHANISTAN.

AND THAT'S REALLY ABOUT IT.

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Q: HAVE YOU TAKEN THIS UP LATELY WITH THE SOVIETS? AND DOES THE UNITED STATES HAVE ANY CONCERN HERE THAT IT WOULD CARE TO EXPRESS?

A: I WOULD REPEAT THE CONCERN WHICH WE HAVE EXPRESSED ABOUT OUTSIDE INTERVENTION IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF AFGHANISTAN. WE WOULD NOT BE LAYING THIS OUT IF WE DID NOT HAVE A CONCERN ABOUT IT.

Q: HAVE YOU TALKED TO THE RUSSIANS ABOUT IT LATELY?

A: I DON'T KNOW.

Q: DOES THIS AMOUNT TO "OUTSIDE INTERVENTION"?

A: I AM --

Q: ARE YOU CONCERNED ABOUT THE PROSPECT, OR THE FACT OF IT?

A: I AM LAYING OUT A SITUATION ABOUT WHICH I CAN TELL YOU WE EXPRESS CONCERN.

Q: HODDING, TWO QUESTIONS: ONE, HOW RECENTLY HAVE THESE 3,500 TO 4,000 SOVIET MILITARY PERSONNEL BEEN INTRODUCED?

A: I DON'T KNOW. IT HAS BEEN OVER SOME PERIOD OF TIME, NOT RECENT.

Q: AND SECONDLY, DO YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION THAT THE-- I BELIEVE HE IS THE DEPUTY SOVIET DEFENSE MINISTER, A GENERAL BY THE NAME OF PAVLOVSKY?

A: I HAVE SEEN THAT REPORT. I HAVE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO CONFIRM IT. I MEAN, WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO CONFIRM THAT PRESENCE AS A FACT BUT WE HAVE SEEN THE REPORT.

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THE LAST TIME WE LOOKED, I DIDN'T HAVE IT, AND IT'S BEEN A PERSISTENT REPORT.

BUT I WILL TAKE THE QUESTION. I THINK IT'S MUCH SAFER IF I TAKE THE QUESTION.

Q: HAS THE STATE DEPARTMENT PRONOUNCED ITSELF LATELY ON THE NEW REPORTS ABOUT WHAT COMES UNDER THE GENERAL HEADING OF "HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS" IN AFGHANISTAN? EXECUTIONS? IMPRISONS OF FORMER LEADING GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND SO FORTH?

A: THERE WAS, APPARENTLY, A READING IN MID-NOVEMBER BY A REGIME SPOKESMAN, APPARENTLY CONDUCTED IN KABUL, IN WHICH THE NAMES OF BETWEEN 10,000 AND 15,000 POLITICAL PRISONERS WERE READ OFF, AND OVER HALF OF WHOM, OR AT LEAST HALF OF WHOM, WERE REPORTED TO BE DEAD IN THAT READING.

BEYOND THAT, I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING. CLEARLY, THIS IS A MATTER OF SERIOUS CONCERN TO US.

Q: BUT HAVE YOU PRONOUNCED YOURSELF ON IT? YOU HAVE FREQUENTLY COMPLAINED OF FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS ABOUT THEIR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AND SO ON?

A: OH, DO YOU MEAN "HAVE WE TALKED TO THEM?"

Q: YES, HAVE WE TALKED TO THEM....

A: WE HAVE TALKED TO THEM.

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Q: YES, YOU HAVE TALKED TO THEM AND WHERE DOES THIS GET YOU?

A: I HAVE DESCRIBED THE SITUATION TO YOU.

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY NEW IDEA OF HOW MANY RUSSIANS HAVE BEEN KILLED OR --

A: NO.

Q: AND HURT AND --

A: NO.

Q: ALSO, DO YOU HAVE ANY BETTER IDEA NOW JUST WHO IS IN CONTROL OF WHAT PARTS OF THE COUNTRY?

A: I DON'T HAVE A STATUS REPORT ON THAT. I THINK, AGAIN, I HAVE TO STRESS THE FRAGMENTARY NATURE OF OUR INFORMATION-- THE SIFTING PROCESS STILL LEAVES US WITH A MOSAIC WHICH IS NOT ALL THAT SHARP IN ITS DEFINITION.

Q: HODDING, DO YOU HAVE ANY ESTIMATE OF THE NUMBER OF SOVIET WEAPONS OR COMBAT AIRCRAFT THAT MIGHT CONCEIVABLY BE FLOWN BY RUSSIANS, IN THESE RAIDS THAT YOU SAID YOU CAN'T CONFIRM?

A: I WILL SEE WHAT I CAN GET ON THAT.

Q: HODDING, THERE HAVE ALSO BEEN REPORTS OF MASSIVE EVACUATIONS OR DEPARTURE OF TENS OF THOUSANDS. I HAVE SEEN ESTIMATES IN THE HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF REFUGEES GOING INTO PAKISTAN. DO YOU HAVE ANY NUMBERS ON THAT? DO YOU HAVE ANY SENSE OF THE SCOPE OF THAT? WHAT DOES ONE HEAR FROM THESE PEOPLE WHEN THEY COME OUT?

A: I WILL TAKE THAT. I THINK I CAN GET IT FOR YOU VERY UNCLASSIFIED
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FAST. I HAVE SEEN THEM, BUT I CAN'T REMEMBER.

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY MORE DETAILS ON THIS "READING" YOU MENTIONED?

A: THAT'S ABOUT IT. WE UNDERSTAND IT WAS SOME KIND OF A READING OUT OF THE LISTS. NOW AGAIN, THAT GETS VERY SKETCHY FOR ME SO I THINK THAT IS THE BEST I CAN DO.

Q: SOMEBODY STOOD UP AT A PUBLIC FORUM AND READ 10,000 TO 15,000 NAMES AND SAID WHICH WERE DEAD AND WHICH WERE POLITICAL PRISONERS?

A: THEY MAY HAVE POSTED SOME OF THEM.

Q: SPEAKING OF OUTSIDE INTERVENTION, DOES THE STATE

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DEPARTMENT HAVE ANY NOTION IF ANY OUTSIDERS ARE INTERVENING.
ON BEHALF OF THE ANTI-GOVERNMENT FORCES IN AFGHANISTAN?
AREN'T THEY GETTING THEIR ARMS FROM FOLKS OUTSIDE THE
COUNTRY?

A: I DON'T HAVE MUCH ON THAT.

Q: DON'T HAVE MUCH?

A: I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ON IT.

Q: DO WE OBJECT TO IT, THOUGH, IF THEY --

A: WE OBJECT TO OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE.

Q: -- IF THEY ARE OUR FRIENDS?

A: WE OBJECT TO OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE IN THE AFFAIRS OF

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AFGHANISTAN.

Q: WHAT ABOUT THE REPORTS THAT THE SOVIETS ARE USING
POISON GAS AND NAPALM AGAINST MOSLEM GUERRILLAS? CAN YOU
VERIFY THAT?

A: I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ON IT.

Q: LET ME ASK YOU A HYPOTHETICAL QUESTION: IF THEY TOOK
OVER THE GOVERNMENT, WOULD WE FEEL SECURE REOPENING A FULL
EMBASSY THERE?

A: LET ME ASK YOU A HYPOTHETICAL QUESTION: IF I ANSWERED,
THAT, WOULD IT SERVE ANY PURPOSE?

Q: YES, WE WOULD LIKE TO PRINT IT.

A: THEN YOUR HYPOTHETICAL ANSWER IS BETTER THAN MY
HYPOTHETICAL ANSWER. I HAVE NO COMMENT ON IT.

3. FOLLOWING ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS TAKEN AT THE BRIEFING
WERE SUBSEQUENTLY POSTED:

Q: IS GENERAL PAVLOVSKIY IN AFGHANISTAN?

A: -- WE UNDERSTAND THAT A HIGH-LEVEL SOVIET MILITARY
DELEGATION WAS IN AFGHANISTAN FOR A PERIOD OF APPROXIMATE-
LY TWO MONTHS FROM MID-AUGUST UNTIL MID-OCTOBER. WE ARE
NOT IN A POSITION TO CONFIRM THE COMPOSITION OF THAT
DELEGATION.

-- WE HAVE NO REPORTS THAT GENERAL PAVOLOVSKIY IS
PRESENTLY IN AFGHANISTAN.

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Q: HOW MANY SOVIET AIRCRAFT ARE THERE IN AFGHANISTAN?

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A: -- THE SOVIETS HAVE SUPPLIED MIG-17'S, MIG-21'S, MI-8
HELICOPTERS AND MI-24 COMBAT HELICOPTERS TO THE AFGHAN
AIR FORCE.

WE ARE NOT ABLE TO PROVIDE YOU WITH FIGURES ON THE

NUMBERS OF SUCH AIRCRAFT OR OTHERS WHICH ARE CURRENTLY
IN AFGHANISTAN.

Q: HOW MANY AFGHAN REFUGEES ARE THERE NOW IN PAKISTAN?

A: ACCORDING TO GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN FIGURES, THE

NUMBER OF AFGHAN REFUGEES IN PAKISTAN NOW EXCEEDS 310,000.
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NOTE BY OC/T: POUCHED TO ISLAMABAD.

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